

FROM THE DESK  
OF  
JASON AND NYREE COX

8434 '01 JAN 30 A9:35

January 23, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: DOCKET NUMBER 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing today to ask the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

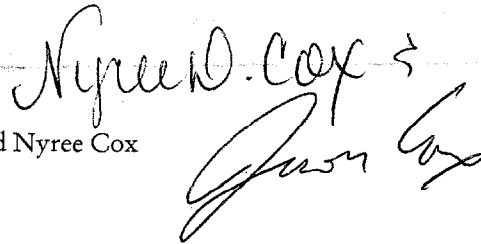
In addition to the disease factor, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains—all of which are inhumane processes that cause injuries and suffering to the animals.

Downed animals comprise only a small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Again, we urge the FDA to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to stop the unnecessary cruelty and treatment of downed animals.

Sincerely,

Jason and Nyree Cox

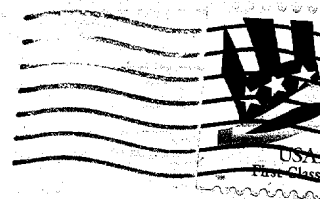
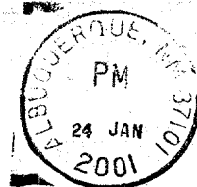


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98P-0151

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